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Globalization and interdependence

Report of the Second Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 11 September 2000, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Globalization and interdependence" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 22nd, 23rd, 30th, 34th, 35th and 42nd meetings, on 24 and 31 October, 15 and 20 November and 8 December 2000. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/55/SR. 22, 23, 30, 34, 35 and 42). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 7th meetings, on 2, 3 and 5 October (see A/C.2/55/SR.3-7).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence (A/55/381);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the high-level panel of experts on information and communication technology (A/55/75-E/2000/55);

(c) Letter dated 5 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly, transmitting the Declaration and the Programme of Action adopted by the South Summit of the Group of 77, held at Havana from 10 to 14 April 2000 (A/55/74);

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(d) Letter dated 11 July 2000 from the Permanent Representatives of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/55/133-S/2000/682);

(e) Letter dated 28 June 2000 from the Permanent Representatives of Egypt and Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the joint communiqué of the tenth Summit of the Group of Fifteen, held at Cairo on 19 and 20 June 2000 (A/55/139-E/2000/93);

(f) Letter dated 17 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the report of the Finance Ministers of the Group of Seven adopted at their meeting held at Fukuoka, Japan on 8 July 2000 (A/55/157-E/2000/101);

(g) Letter dated 1 August 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué Okinawa 2000 adopted by the Group of Eight on 23 July 2000 (A/55/257-S/2000/766);

(h) Letter dated 1 August 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a statement adopted by the Group of Seven at the summit meeting held in Okinawa, Japan, from 21 to 23 July 2000 (A/55/260-E/2000/108);

(i) Letter dated 18 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/55/309);

(j) Letter dated 17 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/55/310);

(k) Letter dated 8 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting, inter alia, the Brasilia communiqué adopted on 1 September 2000 by the Presidents of the South American countries (A/55/375);

(l) Letter dated 10 October 2000 from the Permanent Representatives of India and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/55/473);

(m) Letter dated 20 November 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/55/636);

(n) Letter dated 19 October 2000 from the Permanent Representatives of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.2/55/8);

(o) Letter dated 24 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.2/55/9).

4. At the 22nd meeting, on 24 October, an introductory statement was made by the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs.

5. At the 23rd meeting, on 24 October, the Director of the Division for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs made concluding remarks.

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.16

6. At the 30th meeting, on 31 October, the representative of Romania, on behalf of Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Georgia, Greece, Israel, Malta, Morocco, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine, subsequently joined by Canada, Brazil, the Czech Republic, Fiji, France (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Thailand and Slovenia, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization" (A/C.2/55/L.16).

7. At the same meeting, the representative of Ukraine made a statement (see A/C.2/55/SR.30).

8. At its 34th meeting, on 15 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.16 (see para. 14, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/55/L.36 and A/C.2/55/L.63

9. At the 35th meeting, on 20 November, the representative of Nigeria, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence" (A/C.2/55/L.36), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 53/169 of 15 December 1998 and 54/231 of 22 December 1999,

"*Recalling also* the plan of action adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its tenth session, held at Bangkok from 12 to 19 February 2000,

"*Reaffirming* the Declaration of the South Summit and the Havana Programme of Action adopted by the South Summit of the Group of 77, held at Havana from 10 to 14 April 2000,

"*Recalling* the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2000 of the Economic and Social Council, held in New York from 5 to 7 July 2000,

"*Noting with appreciation* Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/29, in which the Council called for the establishment of a United Nations task force on information and communication technology,

"*Reaffirming* the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted on 8 September 2000,

"*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary General,

"*Recognizing* the challenges and opportunities of globalization and interdependence,

"*Expressing concern* over the exclusion of a large number of developing countries from the benefits of globalization, the increasing vulnerability of those developing countries that are integrating into the world economy and the accentuation of the income and technological gap between developed and developing countries,

"*Stressing* that the economic and social development policies of the developing countries can yield better results with international support and with the creation of an enabling international economic environment,

"*Emphasizing* that the inherent imbalances and asymmetries in the international finance, trade, technology and investment regimes have further aggravated the negative impact of globalization on developing countries,

"*Noting with serious concern* that the benefits of existing multilateral trading system have eluded the developing countries,

"*Underlining* the need for the reform of the international financial architecture with a view to promoting the effective and broad-based participation of developing countries in decision-making and to ensuring the financing of development and financial stability,

"*Underscoring* the urgent need to mitigate the negative consequences of globalization and interdependence for all developing countries, including landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and, in particular, African countries and the least developed countries,

"*Reiterating* that the United Nations is in a unique position, as a universal forum, to promote equitable, just and fair sharing in the benefits of globalization,

"1. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations has a central role in promoting international cooperation for development and in providing policy guidance on global development issues, particularly in the context of globalization and interdependence;

"2. *Re-emphasizes* the urgency of coordinated action by the United Nations, the Bretton Woods Institutions and the World Trade Organization to ensure even and wide sharing in the benefits of globalization, taking into account the specific vulnerabilities, concerns and needs of developing countries;

"3. *Calls* for effective addressing of globalization through, inter alia, the democratization of international economic and financial policy decision-making, the integrated consideration of trade, finance, investment, technology transfer and developmental issues by international institutions, the reform of the international financial system and progress towards liberalization and enhanced market access in areas and for products of particular interest to developing countries, and to this end for close cooperation and coordination between the United Nations, the Bretton Woods Institutions and the World Trade Organization;

"4. *Calls upon* the developed countries, in particular the major developed economies, to enhance coherence among their financial, investment, trade and development cooperation policies, with a view to substantially increasing their support for the development of developing countries;

"5. *Urges* the international community to promote international development cooperation based on growth, stability and equity with the full participation of developing countries in the globalizing world economy;

"6. *Also urges* the international community to elaborate development strategies and policies that aim at the creation of an enabling international economic environment as well as address the endemic problems of external debt and the transfer of resources, financial vulnerability, declining terms of trade and restricted access to developed country markets;

"7. *Strongly urges* the international community to take all necessary measures, including enhanced official development assistance, finding a durable solution to the external debt problem, market access, capacity-building, the transfer of knowledge and technology and foreign direct investment in order to achieve the sustainable development of Africa and to promote the participation of all African countries in the global economy;

"8. *Welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the International Trade Centre and other multilateral and bilateral efforts to help developing countries, including landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and, in particular, African countries and the least developed countries, in addressing their specific concerns within the globalizing economy, in particular through technology-related assistance in the fields of trade and policy, in the improvement of trade efficiency and policies and trade in services, and in electronic commerce;

"9. *Emphasizes* the technology-led dimension of globalization and the need to promote universal access to information and communication technology to enable the developing countries to benefit effectively from globalization by full and effective integration in the emerging global information network;

"10. *Calls upon* the United Nations to strengthen collaboration among various organizations of the system in supporting country strategies for Internet development, information management, content development, human resource training and other information and communication technology activities for development;

"11. *Strongly emphasizes* the need for inclusion, as appropriation, in national and regional capacity-building programmes of the United Nations system, the regional commissions, the funds and programmes and the specialized agencies of a strong component oriented towards assisting the developing countries in the area of information and communication technology, in accordance with priorities of national country programmes;

"12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to establish a commission of eminent personalities with due regard to geographical representation to prepare, in close collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, a comprehensive, analytical and action-oriented study on

the impact of globalization on economic growth and employment, as well as the widening income, knowledge and technology gap and the deepening poverty, the effects of the increasing interdependence between trade, finance, knowledge, technology and investment in development, and the impact of imbalance and asymmetries in the international system on development prospects of developing countries, and to suggest concrete measures or a framework to promote development in the context of globalization and interdependence and the role that the United Nations should play to this end;

"13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session an item entitled 'Globalization and interdependence'."

10. At the 42nd meeting, on 8 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mauricio Escanero (Mexico), introduced a draft resolution also entitled "Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence" (A/C.2/55/L.63), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.36.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.63 (see para. 14, draft resolution II).

12. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.63, draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.36 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

C. Draft decision proposed by the Chairman

13. At its 42nd meeting, on 8 December, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the high-level panel of experts on information and communication technology (A/55/75-E/2000/55) (see para. 15).

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

14. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/5 of 8 October 1999, by which it granted observer status to the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization,

Recalling also that one of the purposes of the United Nations is to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social or humanitarian nature,

Recalling further the Articles of the Charter of the United Nations that encourage activities through regional cooperation for the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Bearing in mind that the Charter signed at the summit meeting at Yalta on 5 June 1998, which transformed the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization into a regional economic organization with a legal identity on the international scene, and the Istanbul Summit Declaration adopted on 17 November 1999 by the heads of State or Government of the States members of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization confirmed the commitment of the Organization to the promotion of effective economic, social and democratic reforms in the region by application of the pragmatic concept that economic cooperation is an effective confidence-building measure,

Convinced that the strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization contributes to the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

1. *Takes note* of the Istanbul Summit Declaration adopted on 17 November 1999 by the heads of State or Government of the States members of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization and of the desirability expressed therein of strengthening cooperation between the United Nations Secretariat and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization;

2. *Invites* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to undertake consultations with the Secretary-General of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization, with a view to promoting cooperation and coordination between the two Secretariats;

3. *Also invites* the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to cooperate with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization in order to initiate consultations and programmes with that Organization and its associated institutions for the attainment of their objectives;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization".

Draft resolution II
Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/169 of 15 December 1998 and 54/231 of 22 December 1999,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted on 8 September 2000,[1]

[1] Resolution 55/2.

Recalling further the plan of action adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its tenth session, held at Bangkok from 12 to 19 February 2000,[2]

Taking note of the Declaration of the South Summit and the Havana Programme of Action adopted by the South Summit of the Group of 77, held at Havana from 10 to 14 April 2000,[3]

Recalling the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2000 of the Economic and Social Council, held in New York from 5 to 7 July 2000,[4]

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/29 of 28 July 2000, in which the Council called for the establishment of a United Nations information and communication technologies task force,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary General,[5]

Recognizing the challenges and opportunities of globalization and interdependence,

Expressing concern about the marginalization of a large number of developing countries from the benefits of globalization, the additional vulnerability of those developing countries that are integrating into the world economy and the general accentuation of the income and technological gap between developed and developing countries, as well as within countries,

Recognizing that globalization and interdependence are opening new opportunities through trade, investment and capital flows and advances in technology, including information technology, for the growth of the world economy, development and the improvement of living standards around the world, and recognizing also that some countries have made progress in successfully adapting to the changes and have benefited from globalization,

Recognizing also the importance of appropriate policy responses at the national level by all countries to the challenges of globalization, in particular by pursuing sound macroeconomic and social policies, noting the need for support from the international community for the efforts of the least developed countries, in particular, to improve their institutional and management capacities, and also recognizing that all countries should pursue policies conducive to economic growth and to promoting a favourable global economic environment,

Stressing that such national macroeconomic and social policies can yield better results with international support and with an enabling international economic environment,

Emphasizing the need to address those imbalances and asymmetries in international finance, trade, technology and investment patterns that have a negative impact on development prospects for developing countries with a view to minimizing those impacts,

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[2] TD/390, part II.

[3] A/55/74, annexes I and II.

[4] A/55/3, chap. III, para. 17. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 3.*

[5] A/55/381.

Noting with serious concern that a large number of developing countries have not yet been able to reap the full benefits of the existing multilateral trading system, and underlining the importance of promoting the integration of developing countries into the world economy so as to enable them to take the fullest possible advantage of the trading opportunities arising from globalization and liberalization,

Stressing that the process of reform for a strengthened and stable international financial architecture should be based on broad participation in a genuine multilateral approach, involving all members of the international community, to ensure that the diverse needs and interests of all countries are adequately represented,

Underlining the urgent need to mitigate the negative consequences of globalization and interdependence for all developing countries, including landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and, in particular, African countries and the least developed countries,

Reiterating that the United Nations, as a universal forum, is in a unique position to achieve international cooperation in addressing the challenges of promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence, including, in particular, promoting a more equitable sharing of the benefits of globalization,

1. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations has a central role in promoting international cooperation for development and in promoting policy coherence on global development issues, including in the context of globalization and interdependence;

2. *Re-emphasizes* the urgency of coherent action by the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, as appropriate, along with the action of Governments, to promote equitable and wide sharing in the benefits of globalization, taking into account the specific vulnerabilities, concerns and needs of developing countries;

3. *Calls* for effective addressing of globalization through, inter alia, making the decision-making process of international economic and financial policy more participatory, especially with regard to developing countries, the integrated consideration of trade, finance, investment, technology transfer and developmental issues by the relevant international institutions, the continuation of a wide range of reforms in the international financial system and further progress towards liberalization and enhanced market access in areas and for products of particular interest to developing countries, and, to this end, also calls for coherence and close cooperation between the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization;

4. *Calls upon* all countries, in particular the major developed economies, to enhance coherence among their financial, investment, trade and development cooperation policies, with a view to enhancing the development prospects of developing countries;

5. *Stresses* the importance, at the national level, of maintaining sound macroeconomic policies and developing effective institutional and regulatory frameworks and human resources, so as to realize the mutually reinforcing

objectives of poverty eradication and development, including through national poverty reduction strategies;

6. *Urges* the international community to promote international development cooperation aimed at enhancing growth, stability, equity and the participation of developing countries in the globalizing world economy;

7. *Encourages* developing countries to continue to pursue appropriate development policies to promote economic development and poverty eradication, and, in this regard, invites the international community to pursue strategies that support those policies through continued efforts to address the problems of market access, persistent external debt, transfer of resources, financial vulnerability and declining terms of trade;

8. *Strongly urges* the international community to take all necessary and appropriate measures, including support for structural and macroeconomic reform, foreign direct investment, enhanced official development assistance, the search for a durable solution to the external debt problem, market access, capacity-building and the dissemination of knowledge and technology, in order to achieve the sustainable development of Africa and to promote the participation of all African countries in the global economy;

9. *Reaffirms its resolve* to give greater opportunities to the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society in general to contribute to the realization of the goals and programmes of the United Nations and thereby to enhance opportunities and offset the negative economic and social consequences of globalization;

10. *Welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the International Trade Centre and other multilateral and bilateral efforts to help developing countries, including landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and, in particular, African countries and the least developed countries, in addressing their specific concerns within the globalizing economy, in particular through technology-related assistance in the fields of trade and policy, in the improvement of trade efficiency and policies and trade in services, and in electronic commerce;

11. *Stresses* the need for good governance within each country as well as at the international level;

12. *Emphasizes* the importance of recognizing and addressing the specific concerns of countries with economies in transition so as to help them to benefit from globalization with a view to their full integration into the world economy;

13. *Emphasizes also* the technology-led dimension of globalization and the need to promote universal access to knowledge and information as well as the need to strive to bridge the digital divide and to bring information and communication technologies to the service of development and all the peoples of the world so as to enable the developing countries and the countries with economies in transition to benefit effectively from globalization by full and effective integration into the emerging global information network;

14. *Encourages* the Secretary-General, in this regard, to continue the ongoing consultations on the establishment of the United Nations information and communication technologies task force, and looks forward to the submission to the

Economic and Social Council of the report requested by the Council in its resolution 2000/29;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, in close collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other relevant organizations, an analytical report on the effect of increasing linkages and interdependencies among trade, finance, knowledge, technology and investment on growth and development in the context of globalization, containing action-oriented recommendations, including on appropriate development strategies at both the national and international levels, and to submit it to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Globalization and interdependence".

* * *

15. The Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the high-level panel of experts on information and communication technology

The General Assembly takes note of the report of the high-level panel of experts on information and communication technology.[6]

[6] A/55/75-E/2000/55.